

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please amend paragraph [0007], as-filed paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, to read as follows:*

[0007] Based on the fact that a DDF is intended to be an after market solution to replace ~~an~~ existing OEM tape feeders, it is designed to maintain the narrow form-factor of a tape and reel feeding system found on PCB assembly machines such as the Universal GSM, Fuji CP-6 or the Siemens Siplace pick and place machines. The narrow width of such feeders, typically less than 100 mm, enables a plurality of direct die feeders to be positioned side by side or along with tape feeders and thus accessible by a single pick and place machine. By maintaining the narrow form factor, the same or fewer placement machines are needed in the assembly line. This significantly affects the overall cost and time consumed in the production of circuit boards containing bare die components when compared to an "off line," stand alone approach.

*Please amend paragraph [0038], as-filed paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17, to read as follows:*

[0038] In recapitulation, the present invention is a method and apparatus for the reliable removal and installation of a component feeding system, such as a direct die feeder, within ~~a~~ an assembly machine such as those used in the assembly of printed circuit boards. The invention employs a docking channel operatively affixed to the assembly machine, where the docking channel includes at least a pair of parallel grooves into which alignment rails rollers on the component feeder may be inserted. In this way, the position of the component feeder may be controlled. The docking channel may further include stops, safety locks, alignment pins and a transport device to facilitate easy removal and exchange of component feeders on an assembly machine.